



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/533,022	04/26/2005	Thomas Schmidt	05047885	2198
34431	7590	12/12/2007		
HANLEY, FLIGHT & ZIMMERMAN, LLC 150 S. WACKER DRIVE SUITE 2100 CHICAGO, IL 60606			EXAMINER	
			MEHRABIAN, SEVAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			4124	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/533,022	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SCHMIDT, THOMAS
	<b>Examiner</b> Sevan Mehrabian	<b>Art Unit</b> 4124

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/OS/02/05)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/26/2005

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

##### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,530,757 to Soyer et al. (Soyer) in view of US Patent No. 5,622,273 to Kelly (Kelly).

##### In Reference to Claim 1

Soyer teaches a connection piece for a fuel pump (1) having a receiving device (5) in which a plug is arranged which has electrical contacts (3,4) for connecting an electric motor of the fuel pump to a mains supply, the plug being extrusion-coated with plastic, however, Soyer fails to teach the following limitation which is taught by Kelly: Circumferential sealing lip (38) integrally formed on the plug.

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the fuel pump apparatus of Soyer by adding circumferential sealing lip disclosed by Kelly to the plug of the fuel pump of Soyer to achieve simpler installation means and increase efficiency by sealing means of the plug and protecting the plug from external residue.

In Reference to Claim 2

Soyer and Kelly teach the invention according to claim 1(see claim 1 rejection above) and the Soyer/Kelly combined apparatus as described above also teaches the connection piece of claim 1, characterized in that the sealing lip (38, Kelly) is arranged on the plug in the region of a bushing of the electrical contacts (3,4, Soyer).

In Reference to Claim 3

Soyer and Kelly teach the invention according to claim 1 and 2 (see claims 1 and 2 rejections above) and the Soyer/Kelly combined apparatus as described above further teaches the sealing lip (38, Kelly) having a region which points in the direction of the electrical contacts (3,4, Soyer).

In Reference to Claim 4

Soyer and Kelly teach the invention according to claim 1 and 2 (see claims 1 and 2 rejections above) and the Soyer/Kelly combined apparatus as described above further teaches a sealing lip (38, Kelly) that can be elastically deformed.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sevan Mehrabian whose telephone number is (571) 270-5058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.
6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth Bomberg can be reached on (571) 272-4922. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SM

/Mark A. Robinson/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4122